

NEWS RELEASE

Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources

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DATE: April 9, 2019

CONTACT: Rori Paloski

SUBJECT: Incidental take notice for Walworth County

MADISON -- The Morrissey Dam Rehabilitation Project may result in the "incidental taking" of two rare snakes under a permit the Department of Natural Resources proposes to issue for the project. Incidental take refers to the unintentional loss of individual endangered or threatened animals or plants that does not put the overall population of the species at risk.

This project proposes to complete repairs to a small dam to keep it operating safely. Specific repairs include replacement of the stop logs, removal of a concrete wall from within the auxiliary spillway, replacement of the railing, clearing shrubs and trees from the earth embankment, seeding and mulching the cleared areas, and replacing the existing fence with 6-foot tall chainlink.

The presence of the state endangered eastern massasauga (*Sistrurus catenatus*) and state endangered queensnake (*Regina septemvittata*) has been confirmed in the vicinity of the project site. DNR staff determined that the proposed project may result in the incidental taking of some snakes.

The Department has concluded that the proposed project is not likely to appreciably reduce the likelihood of the survival or recovery of the species within the state, the whole plant-animal community of which they are a part or the habitat that is critical to their existence.

The conservation measures to minimize the adverse effect on the endangered species will be incorporated into the proposed Incidental Take Permit. Copies of the jeopardy assessment and background information on the eastern massasauga and queensnake are available by searching the DNR website for [incidental take public notice](#) or upon request from Rori Paloski (608-264-6040 or rori.paloski@wi.gov). The department is requesting comments from the public through May 9, 2019 regarding project-related impacts to the eastern massasauga and queensnake. Public comments should be sent to Rori Paloski, WDNR, PO Box 7921, Madison, WI 53707-7921 or rori.paloski@wi.gov.

DNR Office of Communications. DNR Spokesperson: Sarah Hoyer (608) 267-2773